

Weekly Column for November 11, 2004

Today is one of those days that we tend to celebrate a little less than we should. For those of you who don't know, today is Veteran's Day.

There will be a few stories here and there about those who served our country, but this is a case of whatever is talked about, it is most certainly not enough. Without sounding like I'm preaching, any man or woman who has ever served our country, in any way from 1776 through today, deserves to be called a hero.

This has nothing to do with the justification of war, but the standards by which these people serve the entire country. It is not often where people go to work and have questions whether they will return home safely. We often cite sports stars or musical icons as heroes, but hopefully today all of that can take a back seat.

So this is my thank you to every man and woman who has ever served our country, particularly those spread across the globe right now. Even more thanks goes to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, you should be proud of what you are doing, and know that in the future the world will be a safer place because of your sacrifices. There are not many people who have lived before who can say that.

On a personal level, I wanted to take a moment to say hello to all the soldiers from Troy that are serving overseas, especially my friend Tony Buchanan. We all look forward to your safe return in the next few months. I also want to give a 'keep safe' to a soldier I had the pleasure to conduct his marriage two weeks ago before he went to Iraq. Stay safe Thomas Spellman.

Mr. Spellman and his new wife, Jessica Thayer, needed to get married on Saturday morning before Thomas shipped out. They arrived at City Hall, but we needed several witnesses, so we traveled down to the Antiques District and had a spontaneous wedding. It was a great moment.

Just a quick reminder before I end this week. The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Turkey Trot will take place two weeks from today. Where has this year gone? I encourage everyone to sign up for the best Thanksgiving Day road race in the state. I certainly will not be running, but I look forward to seeing you all there. And where there is Turkey, the Victorian Stroll is surely not too far behind. Mark your calendars and do not forget the Stroll takes place on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

See you all next week.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy